

REMARKS

By the present Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2 and to further define (B). These amendments are supported by the specification, for example, paragraphs bridging pages 4 and 5, and pages 6 and 7. Claims 2 and 10 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 4-9 were previously canceled. No new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully submit that entry of the amendments, after final, is proper, at least because they place the application either in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal. See M.P.E.P. § 714.12. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1, 3 and 11-24 will be all the claims pending in the application.

I. Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-3 and 10-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended are in compliance with the § 112 requirements. Specifically, independent claim 1 as amended does not contain the objected-to phrase “a two component copolymer.” Claims 3 and 11-24 depend from claim 1, directly or indirectly. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

II. Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a)

a. Claims 1, 3 and 11-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,217,982 to Dawson.

b. Claims 2 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Dawson in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,179,168 to Hirasawa.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims as amended are novel and patentable over Dawson, alone or in combination with Hirasawa, for at least the following reasons.

Sole independent claim 1 recites a resin composition consisting essentially of 5-50 parts by weight of a potassium ionomer (A) of an ethylene-unsaturated carboxylic acid copolymer comprising a potassium ionomer of two or more types of ethylene-unsaturated carboxylic acid copolymers which has an average acid content of 10 to 30 % by weight, has difference in acid contents between the highest content and the lowest content of 1 % by weight or more, and has a neutralization degree by potassium of 60 % or more, 0.5 to 20 parts by weight of an ethylene-unsaturated ester copolymer (B), wherein the unsaturated ester in the ethylene-unsaturated ester copolymer is a vinyl ester selected from the group consisting of vinyl acetate and vinyl propionate; or an unsaturated carboxylic acid ester selected from the group consisting of methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, isopropyl acrylate, isobutyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate, isooctyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate and isobutyl methacrylate, and 94.5 to 30 parts by weight of a thermoplastic resin (C) other than (A) and (B).

The recited resin composition can provide superior anti-static properties, processability and compatibility. Moreover, the recited resin composition can provide improved processability without impairing physical properties of high crystalline polyolefin resin and molded articles therefrom can have a good-appearance.

Dawson describes a calenderable composition containing a copolymer of ethylene and glycidyl acrylate or glycidyl methacrylate. Dawson does not disclose or suggest a resin composition comprising a potassium ionomer of two or more types of ethylene-unsaturated carboxylic acid copolymers, as recited in present claim 1.

Further, the object of Dawson is to provide thermoplastic polymer alloy compositions, which exhibit excellent low temperature properties coupled with heat and scuff resistance and

furthermore can be processed by calendaring (col. 1, lines 9-12). Dawson describes an ionomeric copolymer as a single copolymer; however, it does not suggest a composition including two or more types of ionomers.

On the other hand, the objects of Hirasawa are to provide an ionomer composition having an excellent antistatic property and excellent heat moldability, and further to use this ionomer composition as an antistatic agent and an antistatic resin composition (col. 1, lines 6-12).

As such, the object of Dawson is different from those of Hirasawa. The Office Action has failed to establish that modification of Dawson's composition by combining Hirasawa's resin composition would provide predictable results in achieving the desired properties described in Dawson. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would have had insufficient reason to combine Dawson and Hirasawa.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is novel and patentable over Dawson, alone or in combination with Hirasawa, and thus the rejections should be withdrawn. Additionally, claims 3 and 11-24 depend from claim 1, directly or indirectly, and thus are patentable over the cited references at least by virtue of their dependency.

III. Conclusion

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions


concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at her earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

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By:



Fang Liu, Ph.D.
Registration No. 51283

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404
703 836 6620